

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 11, 2003. Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11, 13, 17-19, 21, 22, 24-29, 31, 33, 37-39, 41, 42, 45, 47, and 48 are presented for examination. Claims 3, 12, 23, 32, 43, and 46 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11, 13, 17-19, 21, 22, 24-29, 31, 33, 37-39, 41, 42, 45, 47, and 48 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Claims 1, 21, and 41 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

A Claim To Priority and a certified copy of the priority document for this application were filed on May 8, 2000, as evidenced by the returned receipt postcard bearing the stamp of the Patent and Trademark Office, a copy of which is attached hereto. Applicants respectfully request acknowledgment of the claim for foreign priority and the receipt of the certified copy.

Claims 1-6, 11-13, 17, 18, 21-26, 31-33, 37, 38, 40-43, and 45-48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,301,013 (*Momose et al.*), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,453,078 (*Bubie et al.*), claims 7, 8, 27, and 28, as being obvious from *Momose et al.* in view of *Bubie et al.*, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,295,136 (*Ono et al.*), and claims 9, 19, 29, and 39, as being obvious from *Momose et al.* in view of *Bubie et al.*, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,828,461 (*Kubo et al.*).

Cancellation of claims 3, 12, 23, 32, 43, and 46 renders their rejections moot.

In conventional systems, an editing process performed on a selected image is recorded together with the image information. As described in greater detail in the specification,

it is not possible in conventional systems to record the editing process separately from the image information. The present invention performs a desired editing process on an image, wherein a plurality of editing processes are registered as an editing set.

Among other important features of the aspect of the present invention that is set forth in independent claim 1, is deciding layout information for an image based on at least one frame being positioned at a user-desired position on an image preview window according to a user designation, and registering the layout information as part of the editing set.

Momose et al. relates to a printing control apparatus and a printing control method that controls printing by a printing device, which is connected, for example, to a personal computer. *Momose et al.* registers print attribute, such as sheet size, orientation, printable area magnification-reduction, layout or watermark printing, in a pull-down menu. In *Momose et al.*, page layout is accomplished by a user selecting one of four displayed options, depicting a page divided into quarters, where each option represents a sequence of a layout arrangement (column 12, line 61 to column 13, line 9, and Figure 8). Accordingly, a user can only select from predetermined layout options. Nothing has been found in *Momose et al.* that would teach or suggest deciding layout information for an image based on at least one frame being positioned at a user-desired position on an image preview window according to a user designation, and registering an editing set to an editing menu, where the editing set includes the decided layout information and a plurality of editing processes designated by the user, as recited in claim 1. Furthermore, at page 3 of the Office Action, it is specifically conceded that *Momose et al.* fails to teach displaying plural reduced-sized images, selecting at least one image from the plural

displayed images, and performing editing processes which correspond to the identified editing set on the selected images.

For at least the above reasons, claim 1 is believed clearly to be allowable over *Momose et al.*, taken alone.

Bubie et al. is not seen to remedy the deficiencies of *Momose et al.* as prior art against claim 1, particularly with respect to deciding layout information for an image based on at least one frame being positioned at a user-desired position on an image preview window according to a user designation, and registering the layout information as part of the editing set. *Bubie et al.* relates to selecting and arranging multiple digital images from a group of thumbnail images and printing the selected images. The *Bubie et al.* system allows a user to select either a predefined layout or a custom layout template. The custom layout template allows the user to designate the number of rows and column, together with the horizontal and vertical spacing between each row and column (column 6, lines 9-19, and Figure 6). However, nothing has been found in *Bubie et al.* that would teach or suggest deciding layout information for an image based on at least one frame being positioned at a user-desired position on an image preview window according to a user designation, and registering an editing set to an editing menu, where the editing set includes the decided layout information and a plurality of editing processes designated by the user, as recited in claim 1. Even if these patents are combined, therefore, the result would not meet the terms of claim 1.

Accordingly, claim 1 is deemed clearly allowable over *Momose et al.* and *Bubie et al.*, taken separately or in any possible combination (if any).

Independent claims 21 and 41 are apparatus and computer readable storage medium claims, respectively, corresponding to method claim 1, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with claim 1.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

This Amendment After Final Action is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance and, therefore, its entry is believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment After Final Action, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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Atty. Docket 359233
Application PR 5/5, 057

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